

During the month of June, MINUSCA documented 221 new incidents of violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law affecting 337 victims including 183 men, 68 women, 31 boys, 11 girls, one unknown minor and 43 unknown adults. These figures represent a 19 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and a 55.9 percent decrease in the total number of victims compared to the previous month, which documented 273 incidents and 764 victims. Despite this decrease, HRD has also noted that continuous fighting among rival armed groups, mainly in Ouaka, Nana-Grébizi and Haute-Kotto prefectures has exacerbated the security and human rights situation of civilians with increased displacements of populations. In addition, continuous attacks on protected persons and objects as well as on UN Peacekeepers have prevented the opening of humanitarian corridors for civilians, particularly the IDPs. On a positive note, through the joint efforts of the “Haut Conseil de la Communication” and HRD, on 30 June, the CAR Government adopted the National Action Plan on the prevention of public incitement to violence and hate speech in the Central African Republic. With MINUSCA’s support, efforts to adopt local peace agreements will remain a priority which will help reduce tension and violence in the Central African

MONTHLY REPORT- JUNE 2018

MINUSCA HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

Human Rights Division

Monthly Report

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I. Executive Summary

During the month of June, the security and human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remained precarious, particularly in Bambari (Ouaka) and Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi), where frequent attacks and violence against civilians by armed groups and armed men affiliated with them resulted in several incidents of killings, cruel and inhuman treatment, injuries and maiming, conflict related sexual violence, arbitrary deprivation of liberty as well as cases of attacks on protected objects, humanitarian workers and Peacekeepers. State actors, namely the Police and the Gendarmerie and their specialized units were mainly responsible for a number of cases of arbitrary detention.

As was the case in previous months, the hotspots for the month of June were the prefectures of Ouaka, Nana-Grébizi Haute-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou prefectures. With the steady increase in the activities of the SIRIRI armed group, Mambéré-Kadéï was exceptionally included among the hotspots due to the various attacks and incidents of violence attributed to this armed group in the prefecture. During the month, HRD continued to record cases of violence and attacks on religious personnel and their equipment. For example, in Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, the Vicar general of the Catholic Diocese in Bambari was killed following an attack on the presbytery by armed Fulani men. Widespread condemnation of the escalation of violence was expressed by the Conference of Central African Bishops, the Vice-President of *Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique* (FPRC), the leader of *Unité pour la paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) and the international community.

Fighting between rival armed groups such as the UPC and anti-Balaka in Ouaka prefecture, the MPC and anti-Balaka in Nana-Grébizi prefecture and infighting between the MPC and FPRC in Ndélé (Bamingui-Bangoran) contributed to the continuous deterioration of the security situation in these areas leading to civilian displacements and increased need for humanitarian assistance.

MINUSCA Human Rights Division (HRD) therefore recorded 221 new incidents of violations/abuses of international human rights law including breaches to international humanitarian law affecting 337 victims, including 183 men, 68 women, 43 children and 43 unidentified victims. These figures represent a decrease by 19 percent in the number of incidents and 55.9 percent in the number of victims compared to the previous reporting period during which HRD documented 273 incidents of violations/abuses affecting 764 victims. The significant decrease in the number of incidents and victims does not reflect the reality on the ground, as the security situation within the country particularly in Bambari, Bangassou (Mbomou), Kaga-Bandoro and Obo (Haut-Mbomou) remains precarious and consequently prevented the undertaking of timely monitoring activities on the ground.

Armed groups were responsible for 152 incidents which affected 257 victims while State actors, mainly members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) were responsible for 69 incidents affecting 80 victims, mostly cases of arbitrary detention caused by the failure to respect the legal period for holding suspects, mainly in Bangui. The most recurrent violations recorded during the month of June were killings, death threats, cruel and inhuman treatment, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary detention, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, abductions, appropriation, destruction/pillaging of property, recruitment and use of children in armed groups, attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian workers including their equipment and denial of humanitarian access.

HRD continued its advocacy activities aimed at strengthening national capacities and providing a protective environment, mainly through the holding of and/or participation in seminars/awareness-raising or sensitization sessions on human rights with civil society representatives, local authorities and members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and Defense Forces (IDF). On 30 June 2018, the President of the High-Council of Communication, presented to the Prime Minister the adopted National Action Plan on the prevention of public incitement to violence and hate speech in the CAR, following a national campaign on the same. Technical assistance was also provided to the Steering Committee for the development of its initial budget. Similar assistance was delivered to the National Human Rights Commission and line ministries on at least eight projects including, inter-alia, the review of ToRs for the National Human Rights Forum and strategic options for the establishment of a country-wide Early Warning System within the Government. HRD also completed four Risk Assessment as part of its HRDDP process.

Through HRD advocacy efforts, the Police and Gendarmerie transferred 23 detainees who had been detained in their holding cells beyond the legal limit (72 hours, renewable once), to the competent judicial authorities, released an additional four detainees due to lack of evidence and transferred two boys detained along with adults to a brigade for minors.

II. Major developments affecting the human rights situation

1. During the month of June, the security and human rights situation continued to be tense, particularly in Bambari (Ouaka) Bria (Haute-Kotto) and the centre in mainly Nana-Grébizi and Bamingui-Bangoran prefectures. Rivalry among different armed groups continued to adversely impact on the protection of civilians as well as on the humanitarian and human rights situation in the country.
2. The mounting tension and violence in the town of Bambari which started in May 2018 continued into the month of June. UPC and anti-Balaka elements were engaging in violent attacks and clashes in different parts of the town as well as targeting protected areas such as medical and religious facilities and UN peacekeepers, their facilities and equipment. Concerns over the attack on Muslim civilians were expressed in a communique addressed to MINUSCA on 01 June from FPRC's vice-president - Nouredine Adam, in which he also condemned the killing of the president of the Muslim Youth association of Bambari, Ali Maaloum Abakar, during violent incidents on 30 May. Again, on 04 June, UPC leader - Ali Darassa issued a communique, condemning the violent incidents of 30 May in Bambari and expressed regrets over the killing of the President of the Muslim Youth Association, though at the same time denying any involvement of the UPC in the violence recorded in the area. The communique also stated that the UPC always works for peace and favours the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation. Notwithstanding, the UPC continued to reinforce its positions in Bambari with combatants from Bokolobo¹, Alindao and Ngakobo² who arrived in Bambari on 03 June and illegally occupied a priest's residence in Beta 3 neighbourhood.
3. Still in Bambari, the sentiment of MINUSCA supporting either the UPC or anti-Balaka continued to be manipulated within the community thus negatively impacting on peaceful coexistence and social cohesion which resulted in two peaceful demonstrations on 04 June and 06 June. During the demonstrations, approximately 500 people from the Muslim community and their representatives handed over a memorandum to MINUSCA (04 June) demanding the withdrawal of a MINUSCA contingent they accused of siding with/supporting the anti-Balaka. Similarly, thousands of local people from the Christian community and their representatives handed over a letter to MINUSCA (06 June) demanding the withdrawal of another MINUSCA contingent from Bambari also accusing them of siding with the UPC and the Muslim community. Following the demonstrations by the Christian community on 06 June, in the afternoon of the same day, to prevent anti-Balaka from attacking 15 UPC combatants who were being treated at Bambari Hospital, UPC elements opened fire on the Gendarmerie, the Sangaris IDPs site, the Cathedral and clashed with the anti-Balaka outside the hospital premise where they successfully extracted the injured elements and took them to Bornou neighbourhood. All the civilian patients and staff in the hospital fled for safety. At the same time, about 20 unidentified armed individuals attempted to loot the Cathedral but fled upon the arrival of a MINUSCA patrol.
4. Again, on 10 June still in Bambari, near PK0, UPC elements opened fire on a FACA deployment convoy escorted by MINUSCA en route to Bangassou via Bambari. During an exchange of fire, two FACA soldiers and a Russian national were slightly injured. The movement of the convoy was subsequently suspended³. In a separate incident around 5.50 p.m. on the same day, anti-Balaka allegedly opened fire on a vehicle with two peacekeepers on board, injuring both Peacekeepers of which one of them later succumbed to his injuries. On 12 June, MINUSCA received a joint communique issued by the Presidents of the Islamic Committee, the Muslim and Christian Youth associations, denouncing the recent upsurge of violence in Bambari city and calling on MINUSCA to find a lasting solution to the security concerns in the area⁴. In one other incident on 29 June, around 8.00 p.m. at Saint Joseph District, armed Fulani allegedly affiliated with the UPC broke into the presbytery where they injured a security guard, shot and injured the

¹ Located approximately 57 kilometers south east of Bambari

² Located approximately 50 kilometers south of Bambari

³ On 21 June, following negotiations between MINUSCA and Ali Darassa, the FACA convoy containing more than a hundred soldiers and vehicles as well as equipment, escorted by MINUSCA arrived in PK5 south of Bangassou, and was warmly welcomed by the local population and authorities including the Prefect

⁴ Other incidents in Bambari included: Alleged clash between the UPC and anti-Balaka near the church in Ippy, resulting in the death of two anti-Balaka combatants and the injury of a third on 13 June; on 20 June unidentified armed individuals threw a grenade at the MINUSCA base which exploded and caused minor damage the perimeter wall but no casualties; and finally on 29 June around 8.00 p.m. at Saint Joseph District, armed Peulhs affiliated with the UPC broke into the premises of the priest where they injured the security guard, shot and injured the Vicar - Firmin Gbagoua as they demanded for a place to lodged and for money. The Vicar subsequently succumbed to his injuries at 02.00 a.m. on 30 June.

Vicar General of the Diocese - Firmin Gbagoua⁵, as they demanded a place to lodge and money. The Vicar General subsequently succumbed to his injuries at around 02.00 a.m. on 30 June.

5. MINUSCA is liaising with the anti-Balaka leadership and the Christian community to avoid any escalation and reprisal attacks following this incident, which will further exacerbate the already stringent security situation in Bmabari. It is also worth noting that from 30 May to 18 June UNDSS issued the restriction of movement for all UN personnel in Bambari due to the fragile security situation which impacted on the monitoring and verification human rights violations by the HRD. Again, the restriction of movement for all UN personnel to Adji, Bornou and Elevage still remains in place.
6. In other areas in CAR, such as Mbrès (Nana-Grébizi) with clashes between the anti-Balaka and UPC and in Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran) with the infighting between the MPC and FPRC, the reign of violence has impacted negatively on the security situation with implications on the human rights and the protective environment for civilians. On 20 June in Ndele for example, a group of young people allegedly affiliated with the *Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique* (MPC) gathered in front of the FPRC base, demanding the immediate release of six alleged MPC combatants accused of robbery who had been arrested by the FPRC⁶. FPRC fired warning gunshots in the air which dispersed the crowd. Around 5.00 p.m., MPC elements attempted to release the captured MPC combatants from the FPRC base, which triggered armed clashes between MPC and FPRC. Allegedly two civilians got killed, three others injured, several stray bullets landed inside the MINUSCA base and UNDSS issued the restriction of movement for all UN personnel. The clashes caused approximately 40 civilians, including women and children, to seek refuge at the MINUSCA base where they were provided food and shelter as well as the MPC local leader - Ahmed Abbas⁷.
7. In Mbrès, on 22 June in Koyecheguele village⁸ FPRC/MPC Coalition elements clashed with the anti-Balaka which resulted in the alleged burning of 25 civilian houses. On 23 June, a MINUSCA Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) team sent to investigate on the incident was attacked by anti-Balaka elements at about 44 km east of Kaga Bandoro, where one peacekeeper got injured. Again, on 28 June, MPC elements once more clashed with the anti-Balaka in Maorka village⁹ where unconfirmed number of houses got torched and unknown number of civilians displaced. According to information obtained from the local authorities and some MINUSCA sources, on 29 June, MPC and anti-Balaka elements once more clashed 20 km from Mbrès¹⁰ along the Mbrès-Ndomete axis where at least 10 civilians allegedly got killed and over 443 houses allegedly torched or destroyed during attacks on villages located between Yaninguere¹¹ and Blakadja¹². There was also a massive displacement of villagers and alleged attack on the Mbrès Hospital where the assailants reportedly seized all the medical supplies, causing panic among the personnel who fled for safety. A Joint Assessment Mission is being planned to visit the affected areas.

III. Human rights violations related to the conflict and trends constituting threats to the protection of civilians

8. As demonstrated in the annex of this report, HRD in June documented **221** new incidents¹³ of violations and abuses of international human rights law and breaches of international humanitarian law affecting **337** victims **including 183 men, 68 women, 43 children (31 boys, 11 girls and one unknown minor) and 43 unidentified victims**. There was a **19** percent decrease in the number of incidents and a **55.9** percent decrease in the number of victims compared to the previous period (May 2018) which recorded 273 incidents affecting 764 victims. The significant decrease in the

⁵ It is worth noting that the Vicar General was an active member of the religious platform involved in awareness-raising activities on social cohesion and living together. On 01 July, UPC leader - Ali Darassa issued a communique condemning the heinous act and once more called on the UPC and communities not to get manipulated by enemies of peace who provoke incidents for their selfish motives. He also reiterated his firm allegiance to peaceful dialogue and the use of arms only for self-defense. He expressed that no civilian, religious or CAR citizen should be targeted based on ethnicity, gender or religion and for the CAR government to investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of these crimes.

⁶ On 16 June in Ndele, 14 MPC elements who had allegedly moved to the Ndele-Kpata axis to rob traders from Bria, were allegedly ambushed by FPRC combatants and in an exchange of gun shots, allegedly FPRC elements killed six MPC combatants and detained two others at the FPRC base in Ndele.

⁷ MINUSCA has continued in its dialogue and mediation efforts to ease the tension and reach a lasting consensus and has held meetings with the Sultan/Mayor, National Assembly Member of Parliament of Ndele, Samina Al-Aziza, and Imam Haroun Ahmed

⁸ Located approximately 5 kilometers west of Mbrès and 78 kilometers south of Kaga-Bandoro

⁹ Located approximately 12 kilometers west of Mbrès

¹⁰ Mbrès is located approximately 90 kilometers south-west of Kaga-Bandoro

¹¹ Located approximately 2 kilometers from Mbrès

¹² Located approximately 20 kilometers from Mbrès

¹³ Figures mentioned in the report do not reflect the complete overview of the human rights violations in CAR. The figures relate to cases documented and/or verified by the HRD, though it may be possible that these figures include human rights violations committed during previous months but brought to the attention of the HRD during the month of June 2018. Statistics regarding the number of violations reported may increase or decrease over a given period due to numerous factors outside the control and/or knowledge of the HRD and must therefore be used with caution.

number of incidents and victims does not reflect the reality on the ground, as the security situation within the country particularly in Bambari (Ouaka), Bangassou (Mbomou), Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi), Obo (Haut-Mbomou) and now Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran) remains precarious which prevented the undertaking of timely monitoring activities on the ground. Again, most of the HRD field offices were engaged in numerous activities aimed at strengthening national capacities to provide a protective environment; as well as internal activities during which staff members were trained as Focal persons for PoC, assisted with the Independent Experts visit and held strategic meetings with the OHCHR support team, to improve on the HRD's implementation of strategic monitoring and reporting.

9. The most recurrent¹⁴ human rights violations and abuses committed during the reporting period were: **(a)** violations of the right to life with **35 incidents (28 incidents of killings and seven incidents of death threats)** affecting **46** victims, 35 of whom were victims of killings; **(b)** physical and mental integrity with **41 incidents** causing **84** victims; **(c)** conflict related sexual violence with **17 rape incidents** affecting **20** victims (14 women and six girls); **(d)** **62 cases** of arbitrary detention affecting **63 men, two women and four boys**. The reporting period also saw some flagrant breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL). HRD recorded: **(e)** **13 incidents** of abductions affecting **28** victims; **(f)** **13 incidents** of deprivation of liberty affecting **21** victims; **(g)** the recruitment and use of children by the armed groups, **eight incidents** affecting **seven boys and one girl**; **(h)** destruction or pillaging/extortion of property, **six incidents** affecting **six men, three women and three** groups of unknown victims; and **(i)** **23 incidents** of unlawful attacks and destruction on a medical facility, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel including their equipment as well as illegal occupation of religious and educational premises, affecting **12** male staff members, **12** others whose exact details were not provided and another **18** groups of unidentified victims.
10. During the reporting period, the conflict continued to negatively impact international humanitarian law with civilians and humanitarian workers including peacekeepers being the target of the armed groups. There were 54 documented violations of international humanitarian law (24.4% of the overall incidents), all attributed to the armed groups and affecting **110** victims including 45 men, eight women, 14 boys, three girls, 19 unknown individuals and an additional 21 attacks during which an unknown number of persons (groups of collective victims) were affected. As in previous months, the incessant rivalry among armed groups as well as targeted attacks against civilians, humanitarian workers and MINUSCA's peacekeepers has steadily been increasing thus negatively impacting on civilians' human rights and their protection.

A. Human Rights Abuses by the armed groups

11. Armed groups¹⁵ accounted for **152 incidents** (68.8% of the total number of incidents) and **257 victims** (76.3% of the total number of victims) – 113 men, 66 women, 23 boys, 11 girls, one unknown minor and 43 unknown adults of which 21 involved attacks on an unknown number of persons (collective victims). Again, though the total number of incidents increased by 23.6 percent as compared to the previous month (123 cases in May) there was a significant decrease of 57.8 percent in the total number of victims compared to the previous month, which recorded 609 victims. It is worth noting that HRD is yet to verify cases of human rights violations/abuses which occurred in the month of June in Bambari, Ndele, and Mbres/Kaga-Bandoro as there was restriction of movement in these areas due to attacks and clashes involving the UPC, FPRC, MPC and anti-Balaka. In Mbres¹⁶ for example, on 28 and 29 June, anti-Balaka and MPC elements clashed in Maorka village¹⁷ and other villages along Yaninguere¹⁸ and Blakadja¹⁹ where it is alleged that approximately 10 civilians got killed, an unknown number injured, more than 440 houses vandalized and torched and all the villagers have fled from these villages. HRD is planning a field mission to Mbres to confirm the casualties following these attacks.

¹⁴ Other violations within the month included the failure to separate children from adults in detention facilities (**two incidents** affecting three boys); and **one incident** where four men were kept in poor detention conditions at a Gendarmerie holding cell.

¹⁵ These armed groups include the anti-Balaka, the UPC, FPRC, MPC, FPRC/MPC Coalition, FPRC/AH, RJ, MNL, LRA, FORCE, SIRIRI and other armed groups

¹⁶ Located approximately 90 kilometers south east of Kaga-Bandoro

¹⁷ Located approximately 12 kilometers on the Mbres-Ndomete axis

¹⁸ Located approximately 2 kilometers from Mbres

¹⁹ Located approximately 20 kilometers from Mbres

i. Abuses by the ex-Séléka splinter groups: UPC, FPRC/MPC coalition, FPRC, MPC, and FPRC AH faction

12. Amongst the ex-Séléka splinter groups, the UPC (24 incidents), FPRC (22 incidents), FPRC/MPC Coalition (seven incidents), FPRC/AH (four incidents) and MPC (one incident) were the main perpetrators of the human rights abuses documented in June²⁰. These different groups committed a total **58** abuses affecting **91** victims, with the FPRC (41 victims) and UPC (29 victims) responsible for the highest number of incidents and victims. The high number of victims recorded by the FPRC during the period under review was due to cases of violations to the physical and mental integrity mainly in Bria, particularly where civilians suspected to be spies or affiliated with the anti-Balaka and others accused of witchcraft and charlatanism subjected to ill-treatment. For the UPC, most of the cases were recorded during attacks in Bambari where they targeted humanitarian workers, religious facilities and MINUSCA Peacekeepers as well as violated the right to physical and mental integrity of civilians, particularly those they considered traitors or affiliated with the anti-Balaka. Based on the documented cases by the different ex-Séléka splinter groups, there was a slight increase by **11.5** percent in the total number of incidents and a significant decrease by **69.9** percent in the total number of victims as compared to the previous month which recorded 52 incidents and 275 victims. The leadership of the FPRC claimed to continue its efforts towards peace and dialogue, while committing to the African Initiative.
13. In June, the different ex-Séléka splinter groups accounted for **26.2 percent** of the total number of incidents and **27 percent** of the total number of victims. These armed groups perpetrated **(i) four** incidents of killings [UPC (2), FPRC (1) and FPRC (AH) (1)], and affecting **two** women, **two** boys, and **one** unknown minor; **(ii) 14** incidents of violations of the right to physical and mental integrity [FPRC (9), FPRC/MPC Coalition (3), UPC (1), and FPRC (AH) (1)] affecting **27** men, **nine** women, **two** boys and **three** unknown individuals; **(iii) eight** conflict related sexual violence incidents (all rape incidents) [FPRC (7) and UPC (1)], affecting **five** women and **five** girls; **(iv) nine** incidents of deprivation of liberty [UPC (3), FPRC (2), FPRC/MPC Coalition (2) and FPRC (AH) (2)], affecting **nine** men and **one** woman; **(v) 13** incidents of unlawful attacks on humanitarian personnel and MINUSCA peacekeepers and/or their equipment as well as illegal occupation of two religious facilities by the UPC (12) and MPC (1) affecting **one** man, **two** unknown individuals and **12** groups of unknown individuals; **(vi) five** incidents where the FPRC (3) and FPRC/MPC Coalition (2) factions recruited **four** boys and **one** girl into their armed groups; **(vii) four** incidents of appropriation and pillaging of property by the UPC on **one** man, **one** woman and **two** groups of unknown individuals; and **(viii) one** incidents were the UPC abducted **one** girl. Of the 58 abuses, 56 of them, namely 97 percent, occurred in – Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou, Ouaka, and Nana-Grébizi prefectures which have been identified as most of the hotspots in the month of June.

ii. Abuses by the anti-Balaka

14. The anti-Balaka accounted for **43** abuses affecting **61** victims. This represents **19.5** percent of the total number of incidents and **18.1** percent of the total number of victims recorded during the month. These figures also represent a 26.5 percent increase in the number of incidents compared to the previous month (34 abuses in May) and a 10.9 percent increase in the number of victims (55 victims in May). During the reporting period, the anti-Balaka were very active and either killed civilians alleged to be associated with witchcraft and charlatanism or targeted others based on their ethnicity and alleged affiliation to their enemies (the ex-Séléka) or for collaborating with MINUSCA. The most documented abuses by the anti-Balaka were violations of the right to life with **11** incidents involving the killing of **seven** men and **five** women and **five** incidents involving death threats against **three** men and **two** women. There were also 15 incidents of violations of the right to physical and mental integrity, namely subjecting **13** men and **13** women to cruel and inhuman treatment.
15. Other abuses committed by the anti-Balaka included: **(i) seven** incidents of unlawful attacks on humanitarian personnel and MINUSCA peacekeepers and/or their equipment as well as denial of humanitarian access to civilians, extortion and pillaging of **three** men and **five** groups of unknown number of victims. **(ii) three** incidents involving the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of **one** man and **seven** unknown individuals as well as **one** incident involving the abduction of

²⁰ Other armed groups who committed human rights abuses included the MNLC (10 abuses with 14 victims); LRA (eight abuses with 19 victims); RJ (four abuses affecting four victims); SIRIRI (11 abuses affecting 33 victims); FORCE (eight abuses affecting 10 victims) and other armed groups (10 abuses with 25 victims). These armed groups represented **23.1** percent (51 incidents) of the total number of incidents and **31.2** percent (105 victims – 47 men, 29 women, 14 boys, three girls and 12 unknown victims) of the total number of victims.

one man; and (iii) one incident involving the rape of a girl. Of the 43 abuses committed by the anti-Balaka, 26 of them or 60.5 percent occurred in the main hotspots identified during the month in review, particularly Haute-Kotto and Ouaka prefectures.

B. Human Rights Violations attributable to State agents

16. State agents²¹ were responsible for **69** violations (31.2 % of the total number of incidents for June) of international human rights law affecting **80** victims (23.7 % of the total number of victims for June) with 70 men, two women, and eight boys. This represents a 54 percent decrease in the total number of incidents and a 48.4 percent in the total number of victims compared to the previous month, which recorded 150 violations with 155 victims. This significant decrease in the number of incidents and victims does not reflect the reality on the ground, as HRD conducted fewer visits to detention facilities because of capacity-building activities.
17. HRD continues to note that most of the violations by State agents consists of violations of the right to liberty with mainly cases of arbitrary detention²² - **62** cases [Police (9), DSPJ (1), Gendarmerie (36), SRI (9), CNS (1), UMIRR (5) and FACA (1)], affecting 69 victims (63 men, two women and four boys). This is due to the failure of State internal security forces to respect the 72 hour (renewable once) legal limit for holding suspects before presenting them before a judicial authority. In all cases of arbitrary detention, HRD met with the relevant authorities and advocated for the respect of the legal procedures. HRD continues to note that most of the violations by State authorities are committed in Bangui (48 cases) which is where most ISF and Defense Forces are present.
18. Through the intervention of the HRD, out of 69 victims arbitrarily detained, 23 males detained by the Police, Gendarmes, and CNS officers in Bangui, Ombella-M'Poko, Paoua (Ouham-Pendé), and Berberati (Mambéré-Kadéï), had their files completed and transferred to the Public Prosecutor's office. An additional four detainees, including two men, one woman and one boy were released, due to lack of evidence. Again, two boys detained along with adults at a Gendarmerie holding cell in Bangui got transferred to the DSPJ unit for minors. Finally, HRD also followed up on two cases where two boys were subjected to severe cruel and inhuman treatment by police and gendarmerie officers in Berberati (Mambéré-Kadéï), of which one amounted to torture and the other is being investigated for it might also amount to torture. Though one of the boys was released, in its follow up, HRD had a meeting with the Police Commissioner of Berberati who promised an immediate investigation and possible prosecution against all those involved in the torture of a 14-year-old boy. The police commissioner also provided 10,000 XAF to the victim for medical care. HRD also contacted the Berberati prosecutor who committed to follow up on the case for proper action to be taken. In the second case by gendarmerie officers, as the 16-year-old boy needs to be evacuated for medical attention since he sustained critical injuries due to beatings from a gendarmerie officer, HRD is following up with relevant authorities to ensure that the victim is evacuated for proper medical care and investigations conducted.
19. HRD still notes that there is an increased number of detainees being transferred to the judicial authorities. With the continuous monitoring, reporting and advocacy done by HRD, the different units of the internal security forces are becoming more and more conscious of the implications of such violations, thus putting in more efforts to ensure timely completion of investigations and transferring detainee files to the Public Prosecutor's office. Nevertheless, HRD notes that the recurrence of huge cases of arbitrary detention is also due to the lack of capacity, as well as structural and logistical constraints faced by the police, gendarmerie and judicial institutions. During a monitoring visit to the Bocaranga police station (Ouham-Pendé), on 1 June for example, the Police Commissioner pointed out that, cases of arbitrary detention become even more challenging to handle as the public prosecutor and the judge are absent and as such most cases must be transferred to Bouar (Nana-Mambéré) which results in additional delays.

C. Observations on trends and patterns

²¹ State authorities include the Gendarmerie and its different specialized units (*Section des Recherches et d'Investigation*' (SRI), *Direction de la Surveillance Territoriale* (DST), *Compagnie Nationale de Sécurité* (CNS), *Forces de sécurité intérieure* (FSI)), the Police with its different specialised units (*Direction des Services de la Police Judiciaire* (DSPJ), the '*Office Central pour la Répression du Grand Banditisme*' (OCRB)), the *Unité Mixte d'Intervention Rapide et de Répression des Violences Sexuelles* (UMIRR), administrative authorities as well as the military - '*Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA)

²² Other violations by state authorities included nine cases where eight boys and one girl were detained along with adults in the same holding cell; one case of cruel and inhuman treatment of a man by the gendarmes; and one threat to the physical and mental integrity of a man by a FACA officer.

20. HRD has noted that the rivalry among armed groups continues to persist and remains the main cause of the cycle of violence in CAR. Over the past six months, the *Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique* (UPC) and anti-Balaka have increasingly been the main perpetrators of human rights abuses and breaches of international humanitarian law due to their constant clashes over the control of territory, mainly in the central and eastern parts of CAR. In most cases, clashes or violence perpetrated by these groups have been accompanied by reprisal attacks against the civilian population accused of supporting or being affiliated with the rival groups in prefectures such as Ouaka, Haute-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Nana-Grébizi. In June, attacks by armed groups again negatively impacted the security situation and the protection of civilians because of the rise in targeted and reprisal attacks including on humanitarian workers, peacekeepers and on religious and educational facilities.
21. It is also worth pointing out that during the month, HRD observed the growing strength of the SIRIRI armed group in the western region of Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture. Due to the rise in their criminal activities as they try to assert themselves in the area and grow economically, HRD notes that there were more cases registered (11 incidents) within the month where SIRIRI elements killed, abducted, ill-treated and attacked civilians. Amongst the cases, on 03 June in an area located approximately 5 km south of Dilapoko²³ (Mambéré-Kadéï), SIRIRI elements ambushed and attacked a MINUSCA Force patrol coming from Gamboula. During the exchange of fire, one peacekeeper was killed and seven others wounded.
22. The hotspots identified for this reporting period remain the same regions as in previous months except for Basse-Kotto prefecture and Bangui where there has been a relative decrease in cases of violations/abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law compared to previous reports. Again, to the west, Mambéré-Kadéï has observably started to record a significant number of cases from the SIRIRI armed group as well as torture on civilians by police and gendarmerie officers. Due to the growing number of cases, on 14 June in Bombo village²⁴ (Mambéré-Kadéï), MINUSCA launched a military Operation - “*Jinjet*” - in the area, to dismantle the base of SIRIRI elements.
23. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the fighting and armed groups equally rape and sexually assault women and girls, as well as recruit children into their armed groups, during protracted attacks on civilians. This was most notably recorded in the Haute-Kotto, Ouaka, Nana-Grébizi, Ouham-Pendé and Ouham prefectures, where, for the most part, different ex-Séléka splinter groups, anti-Balaka elements and other armed groups remained active, resulting in a significant increase in the number of both individual and collective victims. On 06 June in Bria, CPS along with UNICEF and an NGO, completed an eight-day mission to verify the identity and affiliation of children who are associated with FPRC and anti-Balaka in the area. Out of 191 names submitted in May 2018, 104 children, including 94 boys and 10 girls, were associated with FPRC. Also, out of 80 submitted names, 51 children, including 39 boys and 12 girls, were verified to be associated with the anti-Balaka armed group. UNICEF and its partners are currently establishing reintegration programs for these children.
24. During the month HRD observed that the plight of victims accused of witchcraft and charlatanism remains a major concern within the community which leads to many civilians particularly the elderly and children being targeted and killed or ill-treated because of this social ill.
25. On a positive note, 5 -based on 14 June, the leader of the PK5-based criminal group FORCE sent a letter to MINUSCA affirming its commitment for the return of peace in the 3rd district, its willingness to join the DDRR process and to act in favour of national reconciliation. FORCE also requested the resumption of MINUSCA patrols on the main axes of PK5 from 15 June, but rejected patrols by the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and some specific MINUSCA contingents. Subsequently, on 24 June patrols resumed²⁵ in PK5 and there is free circulation and movement of civilians (though timidly) through and from PK5 including resumption of traffic from PK5 to the 6th District through Fatima and from Yakite to Castors. There is also a reasonable freedom of movement through *Rond Point des Serpents* and from *Pont Jackson* to PK5 market. Although the PK5 defense groups are not currently interfering with traffic flow they remain unpredictable.

²³ Located approximately 80 kilometers north west of Berberati

²⁴ Located approximately 118 kilometers north west of Berberati

²⁵ Patrols had been suspended since 08 April following Operation Sukula and the attack on the Fatima Catholic Church on 1 May

26. Though this reporting period recorded a significant decrease in the number of violations of the right to liberty and security of persons, specifically cases of arbitrary detention by State actors, the period also recorded two cases of torture involving minor victims by police and gendarmerie officers in the Berberati Police post and Bania Municipality Gendarmerie (Mambéré-Kadéi).
27. Another characteristic of the reporting period is the high number of incidents of attacks on protected persons and objects as well as on UN peacekeepers which prevents the opening of a humanitarian corridor for civilians, particularly the IDPs, as well as guaranteeing their protection. During the reporting period, HRD recorded attacks on at least 15 INGOs and their personnel or equipment perpetrated by either the UPC, anti-Balaka, SIRIRI or unidentified armed men in Bambari, Berberati, Batangafo (Ouham), Bangassou, Bria, and Kaga-Bandoro. HRD also recorded more than five attacks on MINUSCA peacekeepers including on their vehicles and bases in mainly in Bambari, Berberati, and Kaga-Bandoro. During attacks on Peacekeepers in Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro and Berberati by the anti-Balaka and SIRIRI elements respectively, two peacekeepers subsequently died and nine others were wounded.

IV. Advocacy and strengthening of national capacities to provide protective environment

28. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic (CAR), Marie-Thérèse Keita Bocoum, conducted her 11th visit from 12 to 22 June to assess the impact of peace and reconciliation actions on human rights and to identify all human rights challenges on the ground. The IE held working sessions with local authorities, civil society groups, representatives from the Religious Platform, representatives of some armed groups, humanitarian and international actors and victims of human rights abuses in Bangui and Bangassou. These sessions initiated constructive dialogue on critical issues including, inter alia, the impact of the peace process on the human rights situation, the restoration of state authority, comprehensive transitional justice strategy, return of IDPs and refugees as well as regional cooperation on transhumance and human rights violations and human rights violations linked with sorcery and witchcraft in CAR. During discussions with representatives of IDPs in Bangassou, a petition was submitted requesting assistance for an international lawyer to assist victims in lodging complaints against perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses in Bangassou.
29. On 01 and 06 June in Bangui, HRD conducted training sessions for the 27 members (18 men and nine women) of the National Human Rights Commission and Fundamental Freedoms (CNDHLLF) which aimed at highlighting the various human rights violations and strengthen the capacities of the commissioners on monitoring and reporting on these various International Human rights and Humanitarian Law violations. The sessions focused on IHRL and IHL definitions, notions, sources, norms, and mechanisms, the Paris Principles, human rights monitoring and information gathering, fact-finding techniques, the CNDHLLF's missions, roles and powers and the protection of human rights defenders. Emphasis were also made on the relevance of the Commission and the urgent need for its operationalization to support efforts towards preventing and responding to human rights violations occurring in CAR.
30. As part of its support to the national stakeholders towards the full operationalization of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (NCHRFF), on 18 June in Bangui, HRD handed over two desktop computers donated by UNDP, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to NCHRFF. HRD still notes that for the proper operationalization of the CNDHLLF, there is the need for more equipment's particularly office equipment and furniture, as most of its equipment's are obsolete and not functioning. Through its' constant lobbying, UNDP has committed to provide more office equipment's such as printers, photocopiers and scanners, in the near future for the NCHRFF.
31. Internally, HRD conducted four human rights trainings for 189 participants including 166 men and 23 women from MINUSCA's civilian, military and police components in Bangui, Paoua, Bouar and Bambari. The presentation revolved around the basic concepts and principles of international humanitarian and human rights, legal sources, different types and forms of human rights violations, the mandate and activities of the Human Right Division (HRD) including mandatory arrangements and key principles for in-mission cooperation in the implementation of HRD's promotion/protection mandate and on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). During trainings, HRD underlined the responsibility of United Nations peacekeeping personnel to ensure that human rights are promoted,

respected and protected at all time and reiterated the prohibition of Sexual Abuse and it's zero tolerance policy. HRD again carried out sessions to strengthen the collaboration between CLAs and MINUSCA Force particularly in the Grimari, Kouango, Bakala, Ippy and Bambari areas. HRD equally reiterated the basic monitoring principles guiding the collection and dissemination of human rights related information such as: the 'Do no Harm' principle, confidentiality, impartiality, and objectivity among others.

32. HRD trained 231 members (210 men and 21 women) of the CAR internal security forces (Police and Gendarmes) and internal defense forces (FACA) including senior and junior officers as well as Prison officers on basic concepts and sources of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law; human rights characteristics (principles of universality, inalienability, interdependence, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination), concepts and principles including that on arrest and detention/conditions of detainees, investigations, proportional use of force; on the obligation of senior officers under national and international laws to investigate violations committed by both their elements and other offenders, including individual responsibility according to hierarchy and chain of command; the notion of State and non-State actors and the difference between human rights violations and abuses; emphasis on the State obligation to protect and promote human rights; criminal liability for perpetrators of human rights violations and reparation for victims, the six grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict; Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV); transitional justice and the fight against impunity; the role of the concerned state actors in reinforcing peace, security and social cohesion; and finally, the military code of ethics to be observed in CAR. The training sessions were held in Bangui, Bangassou, Bouar, Paoua and Obo.
33. HRD also trained 183 participants (149 men and 34 women) including 19 ex-combatants on International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law; CRSV including the techniques and procedures of monitoring CRSV; protection mechanisms; the techniques of collecting and documenting human rights violations as well as observations and reporting of these violations and abuses, and on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on the six grave child rights violations in situations of armed conflict. Participants were representatives from the judiciary, civil society organizations (CSO) including the *Association Centrafricaine pour la Lutte Contre la Violence (ACLV) in Paoua and the Peace and Reconciliation Committee of Kaga-Bandoro*, local and international NGOs including local human rights associations/NGOs (OFCA, OCDH, RGDH, NCDH); anti-Balaka representatives, communal authorities, youth and religious leaders and health staff coming from Paoua, Bouar, Bangassou, Kaga-Bandoro, Obo and Mambéré-Kadéï and Sangha-Mbaéré prefectures.
34. HRD carried out sensitization and awareness- raising campaigns for 279 participants including 156 men, 64 women, 29 boys and 21 girls from the local and administrative authorities; CSO, religious, women and youth leaders; community and opinion leaders; the community including traders and motorcycle taxi drivers, and students from the *Polyvalent High School in Kaga-Bandoro, Bossangoa, Batangafo, and Am Dafock, Ouanda-Djallé and Tiringoulou (Vakanga)*. Topics covered included basic concepts and principles of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law; the impact of conflict on human rights; the effects of mob justice for persons associated with witchcraft and sorcery; and promoting the culture of peace, social cohesion and non-discrimination. These campaigns aimed at putting in place a project to create local independent Human Rights Forums. Participants promised to be vigilant and committed to collaborate more with local authorities to combat human rights violations and abuses, as well as combat rumour and alleviate its negative effects on the communities.

V. Support efforts by the national stakeholders to address transitional justice and public incitement to violence as part of the peace and reconciliation process

A. Truth-seeking process

35. On 14 June in Bangui, HRD participated in a technical meeting with members of the *Centre d'Etude et de Recherche Anthropologique (CERA)* from the Bangui University. During the working sessions, discussions centered on mechanisms of transitional justice including traditional mechanisms; the exposure and appropriation of the collection tools, and exchanges on some traditional mechanisms that could facilitate the process of truth-seeking and on understanding the data collection mechanisms of Traditional Justice and how to build the capacity of local actors in the six sub-prefectures in CAR. Similarly, in Bangassou, on 27 June, in partnership with the *CERA*, HRD launched a

public awareness campaign on the mechanisms and processes of Truth Seeking in the context of Transitional Justice and Organic Law which established the Special Criminal Court in CAR. This awareness campaign focused on the need for the local population to work towards justice, truth, reparation and reconciliation, including the four pillars of Transitional Justice. Eighty-six people including 53 men and 33 women took part in this campaign.

36. On 12,13 and 20 June in Bria, Bouar, Berberati, Bossangoa, and Ndele, HRD conducted awareness-raising campaigns on the “*Establishment of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission*” (TJRRC). There were 331 participants including 247 men and 84 women from civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional authorities, administrative and political authorities, religious authorities, women's and youth associations, armed groups, the media representatives including journalists from two local radio stations (*Ndoye and Voix de l'Ouham*), human rights organizations, professional organizations, opinion leaders, victims' associations and representatives of local NGOs. HRD explained the principles of transitional justice, truth-seeking mechanisms and the need to set up a working group on transitional justice in all these regions. Recommendations included the activities of the future Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission should begin only after the disarmament of the armed groups; no amnesty for grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; zero tolerance for impunity; effective restoration of State authority throughout the country; a complacent independent justice system to reassure victims; and community leaders and victims' associations to play key roles in establishing this Commission. As a result, a working group on the *TJRRC* was set up, with representatives from all the sub-prefectures in Nana-Mambéré prefecture; and in Bria, a 13 members committee was elected to follow up on all the recommendations made, and who will act as a focal point for any future action related to the implementation project for the of *TJRRC* and these members will study the practical modalities to establish a Victims' Association in Haute Kotto prefecture.
37. In Bangui, on 29 June, HRD officially launched the first Local Human Rights Forum at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM), where 73 participants (53 men and 20 women) from civil society organizations, international NGOs, religious denominations, community leaders, and the CAR administration attended the ceremony. This Forum will create a unifying framework for all actors involved in human rights issues in Bangui, in order to periodically discuss human right challenges and concerns. It is worth noting that HRD extended its support to line ministries (Human Rights & Justice, as well as internal Security), the National Human Rights Commission and the Committee on the Prevention of Genocide for the validation of the ToRs of the National Human Rights Forum (a dialogue platform to address human concerns), and the establishment of working groups, tasked with the development of a country-wide Early Warning System. HRD also engaged with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to assess the status of the National Human Rights Policy, under development.

B. Women, Peace and Security

38. During this current month, HRD conducted one workshop, one training and one awareness-raising session on International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Gender-based Violence (GBV) and support mechanisms for victims including judicial protection for victims; MINUSCA protection mandate and the legal framework of protection at national and international level; Conflict Related on Sexual Violence (CRSV); and the role women play in the fight against sexual violence including the referral paths and preventive strategies. A total of 128 participants (85 men and 43 women) benefitted from these sessions and the participants were representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, NGOs working on various protection issues and relevant ISF (Police, gendarmes and UMIRR) officers in Bangui, as well as local human rights groups and NGOs operating in the Mambéré-Kadéi and Sangha-Mbaéré prefectures.

C. Public incitement to violence, discrimination and/ hostility

39. MINUSCA HRD continues to monitor and/or document acts of incitement to violence and hate speech in the media, including other traditional platforms of communication in line with requirements set forth in UNSC Resolution 2399 (2018). As part of its mandate to support the government in its peacebuilding process through, among other things, the fight against incitement to hatred and violence in CAR. MINUSCA through the Human Rights Division in collaboration with the *Haut Conseil de la Communication* (HCC - High Council for Communication), on 12 June, presided over the official launching of the national campaign for the prevention of hate speech and the spread of rumors in Bangui. Among the guests were representatives of the Office of the National Assembly, the High Authority for Good Governance, the

Economic and Social Council, the National Electoral Authority, the High Court of Justice, the Mayor's Office, MINUSCA and the media. The need for the campaign was in view of raising awareness on how statements on different media incites hatred and one of the factors that exacerbates ethnic and religious tensions, with the risk of serious impediment to stability and the ongoing peace process in CAR. Massive mobilization, collective awareness, and reliable political will are essential elements for peacebuilding, resilience and resistance to incitement to violence that could lead to atrocities.

40. After the official launching, representatives of five sectoral groups met separately, including 80 media representatives (12-14 June), 60 representatives of civil society organizations (18-19 June), 60 representatives of political parties (19 June), 30 representatives of state institutions (21-21 June) and 30 religious leaders (21-22 June) to discuss, inter alia, the root causes of incitement to hatred and violence in CAR. The social and political actors were mobilized around the political, legal, security, socio-economic and cultural issues. These fora also discussed innovative ideas through the sharing of information and brainstorming sessions with contributions from Central African intellectuals, international experts and highly recognized personalities. These activities will be accompanied by training and awareness-raising activities for the local population and communities. The forum for the media sector focused on the social responsibility of the media including social networks which will boost their contribution to the preservation of social peace, the fight against impunity and the consolidation of peace. The 80 local media representatives at the end of their forum made a commitment, through a joint statement, among other things, to set new editorial rules, ensuring the control of content, supervising their teams and checking their sources. From 27 to 28 June, during the symposium, the Steering Committee presented the draft of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Incitement to Hate Speech and Violence that was approved for validation by 50 participants.
41. On 30 June 2018, the President of the High-Council of Communication, presented to the Prime Minister the adopted **National Action Plan on the prevention of public incitement to violence and hate speech in the Central African Republic**. The National Action Plan was adopted following a sustained advocacy by the MINUSCA Human Rights Division and the High Council of Communication for a nationwide awareness and interactive dialogue on the implication of hate speech and public incitement to violence on the protection of human rights. The National Action Plan tailored recommendations and major programs aimed at preventing and responding to hate speech and incitement to violence throughout CAR. The adoption of a National Action Plan on hate speech in CAR is a significant milestone and an evidence of commitment, on the part of national and international actors, to invest in the prevention of such crimes. The Action Plan provides guidelines to the Central African Government, civil society and the population on how to reduce the consequences of hate speech and incitement to violence and adequately cope with crisis situations resulting from acts of incitement to violence. Despite the adoption of the Action Plan, hate speech and incitement to violence remains a central issue in CAR and a major concern for the Security Council. MINUSCA considers this National Action Plan as a coordinated and collective response to incitement to hatred and violence that prevents further escalation of violence. It helps to ensure coherence in the response and the work of the Government, the United Nations, international and regional partners, to prevent violence and lay down a foundation for sustainable peace and development.

VI. Support to fight against impunity, HRDDP and accountability mechanisms

A. Dialogue and advocacy on Transitional Justice strategy

42. The Independent Expert meetings, working sessions and consultations with line Ministries dealing with aspects of transitional Justice culminated to an agreement reached with the Prime Minister on the imperative to adopt a more strategic and programmatic approach to advancing the Transitional Justice agenda in CAR. Considering the cross cutting nature of transition justice, that nurtures many public policies and the imperative to mobilize adequate resources, the Prime Minister accepted the IE's recommendation for a more strategic framework under his coordination to optimize the impact of TJ mechanisms in favor of national reconciliation, peace and security in CAR.

B. Implementation of HRDDP

43. During the reporting period, HRD received **five** requests for the HRDDP process from UNPOL, the Force and UNDP to support national security and defence forces (Police, Gendarmes, FACA, Water and Forest Guards) through training,

technical cooperation, and transport and financial support. These requests were for the deployment of 108 FACA and 20 Russian military officers to Bangassou; the training of 30 ISF on the fight against drug trafficking, support to 71 FACA soldiers on rotation with those deployed in Obo and risk assessment for 288 Police and 114 Gendarmerie officers going on retirement who are to be paid by UNDP.

44. HRD completed **four** requests while one was pending. During the process, HRD screened **402** members of internal security forces (police and gendarmes) and defense forces (FACA) and **20** Russian military officers who were to benefit from UN support. HRD drafted **four** Risk Assessment Reports and with the collaboration of the UN entities providing support, recommended a number of mitigating measures to reduce the risk of future violations from being committed by the beneficiaries of support. The **four** Risk Assessment Reports were sent to the chairs of the HRDDP Task Force who endorsed them.
45. The HRDDP Task Force received reports on the implementation of mitigating measures from Obo field office. The Obo Field Office documented two cases of human rights violation committed by two FACA soldiers. Measures have been taken by the FACA hierarchy in Bangui to repatriate the soldier for onward sanctions and charges.

C. Support to the fight against impunity

46. HRD continued to work jointly with UNPOL in the development and implementation of plans to arrest the country's most dangerous criminals in an effort to support the fight against impunity (under Urgent Temporary Measures).
47. As part of the MINUSCA Working Group on Major Judicial Proceedings (WGMJP), HRD participated in working sessions to conduct analysis of violations committed by alleged perpetrators which will facilitate the implementation of MINUSCA's arrest plan in direct support of the Mission political strategy. HRD analysed and submitted four alleged perpetrators in CAR as part of the prioritized short-listing process for those who are active perpetrators to facilitate the implementation of arrest plan in direct support of the Mission political strategy.
48. In a positive development on 27 June, anti-Balaka leader **Wekaname Pépin** alias "Pino Pino" arrested by DRC military forces (*Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* - FARDC) in a village located approximately 180 km north of Bondo, Bas-Uele Province, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was extradited from the DRC along with 33 members of his armed group. "Pino Pino" and his elements arrived in Bangui on 27 June where he was detained at the Camp de Roux prison, while his elements were incarcerated in Ngaragba and Bimbo prisons²⁶. It is worth noting that "Pino Pino" was involved in the killing of peacekeepers in Bangassou (Mbomou) in May 2017. On 29 June HRD conducted a visit to all three detention facilities to monitor their detention conditions. HRD was not granted access to all the detainees as the relevant state officers informed HRD that they were being controlled against the Ebola virus and could only be seen on 4 July. HRD notes that at the Bimbo prison, there were two females detained of which one is alleged to be his wife who is pregnant. At Ngaragba, there were also five of "Pino Pino" elements who were minors of ages 13 (2), 15 (1), and 17 (2) years old. HRD is yet to observe if the arrest of "Pino Pino" will impact positively on the security and human rights situation in Bangassou²⁷.
49. Again, **Ahmed Abbas** of MPC who sought refuge at the MINUSCA base in Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran) following a clash between the FPRC and MPC on 20 June, was arrested at the formal request of the judicial request in Bangui and transferred to Bangui on 23 June. He was detained at the Camp de Roux prison on the same day. HRD visited the detainee 25 June to monitor his condition of detention. According to interview conducted, the detainee admitted having been treated well from the time of arrest and detention in both MINUSCA base in Ndele and Camp de Roux. HRD observed his detention condition to be satisfactory at the time of the interview, though they noted that the detainee claimed not to have any relatives in Bangui.

²⁶ On 02 June 2018, "Pino Pino" and 33 anti-Balaka elements were transferred to Kinshasa.

²⁷ On 17 May, in Bangassou, some local source informed MINUSCA that following the arrest of "Pino Pino" in the DRC, another anti-Balaka combatant nicknamed "**Pigeon vert**" has taken control over Bema (77 km SW from Bangassou) which is a strategic point for smuggling, including weapons smuggling. The group led by "Pigeon vert" is reportedly one of the most active and influential in Bema.

50. On 25 June, HRD in Berberati handed over the renovated District Court House to the prefectural and judicial authorities in Berberati. This project was financed by MINUSCA QIPs, where the building of the court house was renovated, latrines constructed, the building fenced, the doors and windows reinforced and office furniture provided including laptops (four), printers (three), scanners, and photocopy machines, as well as internet connection guaranteed for two years, and installation of solar panels for electricity supply. The project was initiated by the HRD and work carried out by the NGO ADAP.

D. Support to the vetting Process

51. HRD submitted the draft executive order to support the Government in the vetting of 150 national corrections officers. This draft executive order is being reviewed by the Government. In collaboration with MINUSCA's UNPOL development Cell, HRD continues to assist the government in drafting legislation on the general inspection mechanisms for police and gendarmes within the Ministry of public security. The draft legislation has provided for oversight mechanism which includes a compliant procedure for human rights violations, and measures for disciplinary action.

VII. Recommendations

52. In light of the foregoing, HRD reiterates and recommends the following:

To MINUSCA

- Explore with signatories' the opportunities and options to establish monitoring and dialogue frameworks of provisions from the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities dated 26 July 2014 (Art.2, 4, 6,7, 8).

To GoCAR:

- Continue to collaborate with MINUSCA in the arrest of notorious elements of armed groups and ensure judicial investigations.
- Provide required resources including initial budget to operationalize fully the Human Rights Commission.

To the armed groups:

- All armed groups should cease indiscriminate attacks on civilians and take positive measures, as may be required, to ensure full respect for international human rights, and humanitarian law.
- Continuous awareness raising, training and dialogue with signatories for an increased respect for and implementation of IHL in line with provisions of the agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities;

To the International Community:

- Continue to engage in dialogue with all parties to the conflict on their obligation to respect international human rights and humanitarian laws, as well as UN Security Council Resolutions;
- Continue to encourage the Government of CAR to put an end to impunity by investigating past and recently documented human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses with the aim of bringing perpetrators to justice;
- Initiate concerted and multi-layered engagements with signatories of the different peace accords, communities including through the ongoing mediation efforts for the adoption of transitional security arrangements needed for the protection of civilians.

***** END *****